



Hector De La Torre

Assembly Member • 50th Assembly District

NewsRelease

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De La Torre Continues to Fight for Cal Grant Expansion

AB 2365 will address inequities within Cal Grant Entitlement by expanding award eligibility

(Sacramento, CA) – In an effort to increase access to colleges and universities, Assemblymember Hector De La Torre (D-South Gate) introduced Assembly Bill 2365. The bill will address inequities within the Cal Grant entitlement program. Presently, the program is divided into a two-tier system in which Cal Grant A students receive aid throughout their four years in college, while Cal Grant B students do not receive an award for fees and tuition in their first year.

“We need to level the playing field for eligibility and give students greater access to higher education by eliminating the current inequities in the Cal Grant system,” said Assemblymember De La Torre.

“For many students, the hurdles faced during their first year in college are usually the toughest, financial stress should not be one. This bill would require that all eligible recipients receive full financial assistance starting on day one.”

Specifically, AB 2365 would create equity in the program by giving Cal Grant A and B recipients access to the same award amounts to cover costs for their first year in college. The average Cal Grant B recipient has a GPA of 2.9 and lives in a household where the combined annual income is less than \$20,000. In comparison, Cal Grant A recipients have only a slightly higher GPA of 3.4 and live in households with substantially higher incomes, \$49,700.

“CSSA’s mission is to maintain and enhance the accessibility of the CSU system, we commend Assemblymember De La Torre for his continued commitment to making higher education accessible,” said Miguel Cervantes, a spokesman for the California State Student Association.

Background

Under the Cal Grant entitlement program, assistance is guaranteed to all eligible graduating high school seniors who will attend a postsecondary institution immediately following graduation. Cal Grant A awards cover fees for CSU, UC, or Private Institutions, for up to four years. Cal Grant B awards are limited to an allowance for books and living expenses totaling \$1,551 during a student’s first year. Those students who renew these awards will then receive full tuition for the remaining three years.

Assemblymember De La Torre authored AB 2813, enacted in 2006, which increased Cal Grant award access to community college transfer students by reducing age limitations to the program.

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